



### Key Events in the Museum's History

- **1954** – The Junior Museum is founded by new members of the Troy Junior League, and is designed to be a museum for children that would include hands-on exhibits. The museum's first home was located in the basement of the Rensselaer Historical Society
- **1959** – The Junior Museum moved to a home of its own, The Ida Munn House, located at 108 2nd Avenue in Troy, NY
- **1974** – The Junior Museum relocated to the historic J.J. Child Firehouse at 282 5th Avenue in North Troy, NY. Exhibitions include live snakes, marine animals, and a full-sized replica of an 1850 log cabin
- **2000** – The Junior Museum relocates to the former Winslow Building on the West edge of the Rensselaer campus, tripling its size
- **2005** – The Junior Museum relocates in the Rensselaer Technology Park and opens as the Children's Museum of Science and Technology (CMOST), and begins to offer hands-on science programming to children of the Tech Valley region
- **2006** – CMOST successfully re-opens following extensive renovations and debuts new exhibits, including the Living Hudson River, The WeatherFront exhibit and PlayMotion
- **2006** – Discover Science Scholarship Program is initiated and supported by the community to provide hands-on science programming to children in socio-economically disadvantaged areas of the Tech Valley region
- **2008** – CMOST received a grant from Troy Savings Bank Foundation and opens Operation W.I.L.D. as the new live animal exhibit and stepping stone for the new CMOSTeen volunteer program
- **2008** - Go Power installed exhibit installed
- **2013** – CMOST announces that it will become part of the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering and becomes the CNSE Children's Museum of Science and Technology (CNSE CMOST)



## 2014 ACHIEVEMENTS AT A GLANCE



### CNSE CMOST is...

- a **proponent of exploring the world of science and technology in a hands-on environment**, engaging 15,000 children and their families each year.  
a **partner in STEM education** – 5,000 children actively engaged in the museum’s school programs. CNSE CMOST staff has focused on the skill sets found in the Common Core Curriculum and is in the process of further enhancing programming to align with the next generation science standards.
- **bringing the Museum to you!** In addition to our suite of **Community Outreach Programs**, we launched a new 20-week **Science Crew\*** after-school program in 2014 which engaged over 125 children from 5 communities.
- a **unique venue for immersive learning when school is out!** In 2014 we expanded our **Summer & Vacation Day Camps** to include Scratch Labs & our spin on a Maker’s Lab with Make & Take It 101 & 201.
- home to nearly **100 animals in our living collection**; this vital resource enchants children during daily lessons about habitat, habits and common threats. In 2014, 5 teenagers participated in **CNSE CMOSTeen**, our volunteer program which engages teens in the care and feeding of our animal collection, as well as mentoring them on how to use the living collection to educate other children.
- a **thought leader!** We engaged with teachers, informal education partners and parents as first teachers this year, to discuss clever strategies and ready tools for connecting children to science.
- an **advocate of early learning**, offering My Parent & Me, Science Story Time and Sensory Science Time programs **especially designed for preschoolers** throughout the year; captivating a toddler's sense of wonder and discovery.
- a **great place to party!** 125 children added a unique educational twist to their **birthday party** in 2014.
- an **awesome place for Scouts!** 142 kids pursued a badge in our Scout workshops or enjoyed a night in the wild indoors at a camp-in.
- a dedicated **community partners** - gleaning support and engagement from the following community partners The Bender Scientific Foundation; Berkshire Bank; General Electric; The Hudson River Improvement Foundation; M+W Group; The Traveling Museum and Target.
- **making a [Great Leap Forward](#)**, and we are committed to creating the new Museum in Your vision. Begun in the fall of 2014, with a suite of e-surveys, this process will extend to listening sessions in early 2015.

\*Many thanks to General Electric for supporting the initial development and launch of Science Crew!





# THE CNSE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

of Science and Technology



Explore ★ Discover ★ Imagine

## The Power of Play

### EXPLORE

CNSE CMOST's discovery environment provides children with the opportunity to explore and learn about science and technology in a pressure-free setting.

### DISCOVER

Discovery and play aren't just about entertainment, they are essential learning tools that help with cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development. Children learn about themselves, their environment, people and the world around them all through play.

### IMAGINE

By allowing children to choose the activities and exhibits with which they wish to interact, you motivate them to keep engaging and discovering the world around them, and you help them develop a disposition for learning.





### CNSE CMOST Key Staff



Catherine Gilbert joined CNSE CMOST as Vice President in August 2014. "My aspiration is that this venture will result in a museum which will exemplify progressive educational strategies and satisfy the modern museum-goers' expectation to be an active participant in the museum experience." Ms. Gilbert has her Masters of Arts in Museum Education from Tufts University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art History from Marist College. Catherine spent the past six-and-a-half years as Director of the Museum Association of New York, a statewide professional services organization for museums, including her time spent as Executive Director of Museumwise before the two organizations merged. Prior to that, she spent nearly a decade connecting communities with the wealth of learning experiences offered by museums and heritage organizations by developing programs and resources at the Miami Children's Museum, the New York State Historical Association, Old South Meeting House, and the Boston Children's Museum. A strong proponent for physical activity, Catherine balances out "office time" by coaching rowing and running half-marathons.



Sarah Fisk has worked at CNSE CMOST since 2003 and is presently the Director of Education. She is responsible for creating and administering the museum's overall vision for educational programs and activities, including oversight of all community-based engagement events. Sarah has always had a passion for science, holding a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Management/Environmental Science from Paul Smith's College of the Adirondacks. She discovered her affinity for informal education while still in college, and further developed it while serving as an AmeriCorps Educator. From there, Sarah determined that she wanted to work in a museum environment advocating for increased access to early childhood learning opportunities. When she is not busy pursuing new program opportunities and facilitating hands-on science activities, Sarah can be found enjoying the outdoors as an avid triathlete and Ironman.



Laurie Miedema is the Director of Operations at the CNSE CMOST, where she is responsible for the day to day operations of the museum, membership, marketing, and the museum's development program. Laurie began her work in the not for profit community while in college, becoming a community organizer for a statewide student group. She later returned to her native Rochester, New York, in order to work with the National Clean Air Coalition. Laurie has previously worked with organizations such as the Capital District YMCA, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, and was also the Legislative Director for a national women's organization. Her community volunteering includes Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York and Blue Star Mothers of the Capital Region. She attended Clarion University of Pennsylvania where she pursued her studies in Political Science. An avid sports and music fan, you will find her cheering for her beloved Oakland Raiders and Buffalo Sabres.



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